

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12, 14, 15, 17-19, and 21-45 are pending. By this amendment, claims 8, 9, 21, 22, 25, 27-29, and 31-45 are canceled. Claims 23 and 30, which formerly depended from now canceled claim 21, have been amended merely to place them in independent form.

Items 3, 4: Supplemental Reissue Declaration

The reissue oath/declaration filed on March 25, 2004, was objected to as defective on the ground that it was unsigned. Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.175 and MPEP 1414, applicants enclose a *Supplemental Reissue Application Declaration By All Inventors*, signed by all inventors, and updating and verifying that all errors being corrected arose without any deceptive intent.

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12, 14, 15, 17-19 and 21-45 were rejected as being based on a defective reissue declaration under 35 U.S.C. § 251. The rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the signed reissue declaration enclosed herewith.

In light of the cancellation of claim 21, claims 23 and 30 have been amended to place them in independent form. Applicants submit that the scope of claims 23 and 30 is not altered by this amendment, and that no further supplemental oath/declaration has been necessitated.

Item 5: Claim Objections

Claims 27-45 were objected to under 37 CFR § 1.173(b) as new claims that were not presented with underlining throughout. Claims 27-29 and 31-45 having been canceled, the rejection is met by the present amendment to claim 30, which is presented with underlining throughout.

Item 9: Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103: Foote in view of Wood and Smola

Claims 8, 9, and 45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as not being patentable over Foote et al. (WO 95/25948) in view of Wood (US 5,283,179) taken further in view of Smola et al. (US 4,004,548). The rejection is respectfully moot in view of the cancellation of claims 8, 9, and 45.

Item 10: Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a): Matsumoto et al.

Claims 21 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al. (JP 07-59555). The rejection is respectfully moot in view of the cancellation of claims 21 and 25.

Item 11: Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a): Matsumoto et al. in view of Smola et al.

Claim 45 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as not being patentable over Matsumoto et al. (JP 07-59555) in view of Smola et al. (US 4,004,548).. The rejection is respectfully moot in view of the cancellation of claim 45.

Item 12: Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a): Matsumoto et al. in view of Bernstein

Claims 22 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as not being patentable over Matsumoto et al. (JP 07-59555) in view of Bernstein (US 4,770,853). The rejection is respectfully moot in view of the cancellation of claim 22.

Item 13: Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a): Foote in view of Abbas

Claims 27, 29, 31-33, 36-39, 41, 43, and 44 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as not being patentable over Foote et al. (WO 95/25948) in view of Abbas (US 5,223,402). The rejection is respectfully moot in view of the cancellation of claims 27, 29, 31-33, 36-39, 41, 43, and 44.

Item 14: Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a): Foote et al. in view of Abbas et al. and Bernstein

Claims 28 and 40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as not being patentable over Foote et al. (WO 95/25948) in view of Abbas (US 5,223,402) taken further in view of Bernstein (US 4,770,853). The rejection is respectfully moot in view of the cancellation of claims 28 and 40.

Item 15: Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a): Foote et al. in view of Abbas et al. and Smola et al.

Claims 34, 35, and 42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as not being patentable over in view of Foote et al. (WO 95/25948) in view of Abbas (US 5,223,402) taken further in view of Smola et al. (US 4,004,548). The rejection is respectfully moot in view of the cancellation of claims 34, 35, and 42.

Item 16: Allowable Subject Matter

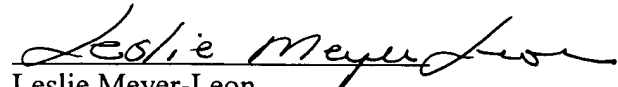
Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17-19, 23, 24, 26 and 30 were stated to define over the prior art of record, and would be allowable subject to meeting the requirements of submitting a supplemental oath and declaration pursuant to 35 USC § 251, as discussed in reference to items 3 and 4, above.

CONCLUSION

The present Amendment is being filed within four months of the mailing date of the Office Action. A petition for extension of time (one month) is enclosed herewith. Please charge any outstanding fees or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1895, Ref. No. 0656-008US6.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Supplemental Reissue Declaration (signed)
Petition for one month extension of time
Fee transmittal
Postcard

0656-008US6/9792.doc